

An ADE Newsletter for Test Coordinators

May 2015



The Examiner

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Irene Hunting, Deputy Associate Superintendent

Announcements

Test Coordinator Information Form

All districts/charters are asked to submit a [*Test Coordinator Information – School Year 2015 -2016*](#) form by **May 22, 2015**. This form includes the names and contact information for the Achievement Testing, Alternate Assessment, and AZELLA District Test Coordinators. Even if there are no changes to the test coordinators or their contact information, please submit a new form.

ADE Customer Satisfaction Survey

Your satisfaction with the customer service provided by ADE is important to us. ADE regularly surveys its customers in order to gauge their level of satisfaction. This year's Assessment Section Customer Satisfaction Survey was sent out on May 5 to Test Coordinators for all of our assessment programs. Each District Test Coordinator will receive only a single survey regardless of the number of assessment programs he/she coordinates. Within the survey you will be asked if you are the District Test Coordinator for each assessment program. If you respond "Yes," you will be asked a short series of questions that pertain to that specific program only. If you respond "No," no other questions will be asked for that program. Since each assessment program carefully considers your input to improve our services, we would appreciate you taking the time to respond to each appropriate program. The survey will close on Wednesday, May 27. We look forward to receiving your comments.

AzMERIT Test Administration Survey

AzMERIT District Test Coordinators received an email on April 28 with a link to an AzMERIT Test Administration Survey. This survey closes on Friday, May 15. If you have not yet responded to this survey with your feedback on the AzMERIT Test Administration, please do so by Friday.

AzMERIT**Spring 2015 AzMERIT Recap**

Congratulations to everyone involved in AzMERIT testing. This first administration of AzMERIT went well. About 42% of all students participating in AzMERIT testing were administered the computer-based version of AzMERIT. This means that more than 326,000 students completed more than 1.6 million computer-based AzMERIT testing sessions. The scanning of paper-based AzMERIT tests is nearing completion. Hand scoring for both computer-based tests and paper-based tests is nearing completion.

AzMERIT Standard Setting and AzMERIT Score Reports

Standard Setting is the process used to establish the cut-scores for the different performance levels of AzMERIT. The AzMERIT Standard Setting is scheduled for mid-July. Invitations to standard setting participants have already gone out.

The State Board of Education must adopt AzMERIT cut-scores. ADE and AIR will provide a standard setting report including recommended cut-scores to the State Board of Education on July 27. The Board may approve the recommended cut-scores or revise the cut-scores at their regular meeting on August 24 or at a special meeting held earlier. ADE Assessment has asked the Board at multiple Board meetings to establish a timeline for their adoption of AzMERIT cut-scores. So far, the Board has not provided that timeline. Without knowing the date the Board intends to approve the AzMERIT cut-scores, we cannot provide a date when AzMERIT score reports will be available. Score reports should be available 8 weeks after the Board approves the cut scores.

The ADE Assessment Section is working to finalize sample AzMERIT reports. These should be available by the end of summer.

AzMERIT Testing for School Year 2015-2016

For School Year 2015-2016, there will be three AzMERIT testing windows: Fall 2015 EOC, Spring 2016, and Summer 2016 EOC. We have established the test windows for Fall 2015 EOC and Spring 2016. Like the Spring 2015 test window, the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 test windows will be six weeks long for computer-based testing and two weeks long for paper-based testing. However, paper-based testing now moves to the first two weeks of the testing window. Test windows have been scheduled to allow for results to be available before the end of the semester or school year.

	Fall 2015 EOC Test Window	Spring 2016 Test Window	Summer 2016 EOC Test Window
Computer-Based	October 26 - December 4 (Writing must be completed by November 13)	March 28 - May 6 (Writing must be completed by April 15)	TBD
Paper-Based	October 26 - November 6	March 28 - April 8	TBD

Computer-Based Testing and Paper-Based Testing

All schools that administered the computer-based Spring 2015 AzMERIT will continue to administer the computer-based AzMERIT for all future AzMERIT test windows.

Schools that administered the paper-based Spring 2015 AzMERIT will have to select their testing mode every applicable test window. Schools that were previously paper-based but would like to change to computer-based testing must have a Tech Readiness result of yellow or green. Tech Readiness inventories can be updated through ADEConnect beginning later this summer. For schools administering the Fall 2015 AzMERIT, the testing mode must be selected by mid-August. Testing mode for Spring 2016 will not be selected until later in the school year.

More details will be provided in the August edition of *The Examiner*.

Fall 2015 EOC Testing

Fall AzMERIT testing is limited to EOC testing. Students who are on track to complete, during the fall semester, a one credit course aligned to one of the first three years of English credits or one of the first three years of mathematics credits required for high school graduation should participate in the appropriate AzMERIT EOC test(s) during the Fall 2015 test window.

For the Fall 2015 EOC Test Window, schools/district will be responsible for uploading their own students into TIDE. ADE will not upload any students into TIDE for the Fall 2015 EOC Test Window. Paper-based test materials will be provided based upon student uploads completed by September 4.

AIMS

AIMS HS Reports

All AIMS HS reports have been posted on *PearsonAccess* and paper copies of the score reports were received in districts May 6. **The electronic copies of the reports and the student data files will remain posted until May 22.**

AIMS Science Reports

AIMS Science electronic copies of the reports and the student data files will be posted on *PearsonAccess* May 22. Paper copies of the score reports will arrive at districts June 4. **The electronic copies of the reports and the student data files will remain posted until June 19.**

Spring 2015 AIMS HS and AIMS Science Score Reports – Verifying Reports

AIMS HS and AIMS Science reports and electronic student data files must be downloaded from *PearsonAccess*. Detailed instructions are included in the *AIMS User's Guide* which is posted on *PearsonAccess*. Be certain to download the reports and the electronic data file prior to the dates listed above. It is the responsibility of the Achievement Testing District Test Coordinator to download and securely store the files. If the Achievement Testing District Test Coordinator will not be available to download the files prior to the dates listed, make sure someone at the district has been provided the information needed to complete this task.

AIMS Science testing for School Year 2015-2016

AIMS Science - Students in grades 4, 8, and HS will participate in AIMS Science testing.
Spring 2016 - March 14 through April 22, 2016

If you have any questions about AzMERIT, please email AzMERIT@azed.gov

Alternate Assessment

I know many of you are preparing for Summer Break. Please take a few minutes to read through this final update---Here's to next year!



Much positive feedback has been received. Hopefully, all Test Administrators will now have a better understanding of this new assessment. We are pleased that nearly 7,000 students were assessed and that there were only a few reports involving technology issues. We will be reviewing the feedback submitted by the test administrators for possible future improvements. Thank you for your efforts to make the administration of this new test go so smoothly.

Preparing for the End of the Test Administration

The NCSC Alternate Assessment test window will close Friday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. Central Time!
There are no extensions.

Final Status of All Tests

All tests must have a final status of one of the following: "Submitted," "Closed," or "Not Started."

- If you have a student in the "In Progress" status, submit the test by May 15, 2015.
- If a student has been entered twice into the system, "Close" the test record for which the student did not test by May 15, 2015, and notify the Alternate Assessment Office. If you have already notified our office, there is no need to notify us again.
- If you have a student's test that is "Not Started," but the student has withdrawn or is no longer eligible, "Close" this student's test and indicate the reason by May 15, 2015. Please notify the Alternate Assessment office if a student's tests will remain in the "Not Started" status.

NCSC Student Surveys

The NCSC surveys do not impact the submission of the students' tests. However, the information collected from these surveys will provide valuable information for future administrations, as well as allow TAs to provide feedback to the state and the NCSC Project.

Student Score Reports

The next step is to conduct a Standard Setting in order to determine student proficiency levels. Once this process has occurred, all LEAs will receive district and student score reports in the Fall of 2015.

Securely Shredding and Deleting NCSC Test Materials

NCSC Test materials must be securely shredded or deleted at the school or district level. Test Coordinators are responsible for ensuring the test materials have been securely shredded. This includes deleting and emptying the recycle bin for any NCSC test materials that were downloaded (e.g., DTAs, printed versions of student's test, constructed response items) to a desktop or another location. See pages 16 and 26 of *Test Administration Manual* (TAM). TAMs are not secure test materials and do not have to be shredded. These may be discarded or kept. These are not required to be sent back to ADE.

If you have any questions regarding AIMS, please email MaryPat.Wood@azed.gov

Preparing for Next Year

Assessment determinations are made annually for students.

- AIMS A Science (Grades 4, 8, and 10 only)
- NCSC ELA and Math (Grades 3-8, and 11)

Please remember to include appropriate instructional and testing accommodations as you conduct IEP meetings.

Combined Alternate Assessment Eligibility can be found here:

<http://www.azed.gov/assessment/files/2014/11/alternate-assessment-eligibility-combined-2014.pdf>

ADE NCSC Webpage: <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/ncsc/>

2014-2015 AIMS A Science Administration**CONGRATULATIONS on completing another AIMS A Science administration!**

Look for updates and highlights of key areas at the 2015 Director's Institute-Alternate Assessment Session in Fall 2015.

Return AIMS A Test Materials by May 29, 2015

If you haven't done so already, please complete your inventory form, package the AIMS A test materials and return the materials to ADE using the provided return service label (through Fed-Ex) by May 29, 2015. If you have lost or misplaced your label, we cannot send you a new one. Please make arrangements to have your AIMS A Science test materials returned to the Alternate Assessment Unit, 1535 West Jefferson St., Bin #6, Phoenix, AZ 85007. If you have any questions about returning the AIMS A test materials, please contact us at 602.542.8239.

ADE AIMS A Webpage: <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/aims-a/>

Exceeding the 1% Cap

The notification and process will not occur until Fall 2015 **for this year only!** An email notification to the Test Coordinator will be sent by the Alternate Assessment Director if the PEA has exceeded the 1% Cap for the 2014-2015 Alternate Assessment Administration. The Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator will then have an opportunity to submit an appeal.



Don't forget to share this information with your teachers!

If you have any questions, contact Audra Ahumada at 602-542-4061 or Audra.Ahumada@azed.gov.

If you have any questions regarding AIMS A, please email AssessingSWDs@azed.gov

AZELLA Placement Testing for School Year 2014-2015

AZELLA Placement Testing for this school year is coming to a close. All AZELLA Placement Testing, including speaking tests and key entry, must be completed by Friday, May 22, 2015. Please review the Placement Scoring Status Reports in *PearsonAccess* to ensure that no placement tests are “In Progress,” “Completed – Key Entry,” or “Completed – Speaking” status and that all student records have a SAIS ID by May 22.

AZELLA Placement Test results for School Year 2014 – 2015 will be available in *PearsonAccess* through September 30, 2015. Be certain to download and securely store the electronic student data file(s) and PDF versions of the placement test reports prior to September 30, 2015. After this date, electronic versions of the AZELLA Placement Test results for School Year 2014 – 2015 will not be available.

Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment

Reports

The Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment electronic reports have been posted to *PearsonAccess*. They are located under the Test Results tab. Please see the *Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment User's Guide* posted on *PearsonAccess* for directions on accessing and downloading these reports. Guidance regarding the use and interpretation of AZELLA results is posted on the [AZELLA web page](#) under the “General Information” tab.

AZELLA District Test Coordinators are expected to download and securely store the electronic student data file and PDF versions of the reports as soon as possible. The Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment reports will remain posted until Wednesday, September 30. After this date, electronic versions of the Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment reports will not be available.

Paper reports will be in districts/charters by Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

AZELLA Applications and Reports on ADE Common Logon/ADEConnect

AZELLA Correction/SDELL Reports Moving to ADEConnect

All ADE applications on the ADE Common Logon have or will move to ADEConnect. The AZELLA Correction/SDELL Reports application will be available on ADEConnect by May 19. ADE will initially set up all AZELLA District Test Coordinators to have access to the application. Any additional staff that will need access to the AZELLA Correction/SDELL Reports will need to be set up in ADEConnect with the role of ELL. The district's LEA Entity Admin will need to make sure the correct staff has access to the application by assigning the ELL role to users. If the AZELLA District Test Coordinator changes after this initial opening, the LEA Entity Admin will need to make sure that the new person has this AZELLA District Test Coordinator role added to their permissions in ADEConnect.

AZELLA Corrections Application

Any Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment results that could not be matched to SAIS are visible in the AZELLA Corrections Application. Please check the application and submit corrections promptly. **All School Year 2014-2015 (FY2015) corrections must be completed before School Year 2015-2016 AZELLA Placement testing may begin.**



Please see page 11 for
OELAS updates and
Guidance from USDOE

Title III Finding – Reasons not Tested Application

Based on United States Department of Education (USDOE) information, **all LEAs** must report the reasons why students who were expected to participate in the Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment did not test. A new application is being created on ADEConnect for users in the role of AZELLA District Test Coordinator to complete this task. Available in July, this application will be located within the AZELLA Corrections and SDELL Reports section of ADEConnect. For each of the students on your list, please select an option from the drop-down menu explaining why the student did not test. Once each student has a response, click the certify button. By certifying the reasons for not testing, this attests to the accuracy of the data and finalizes the submission so it cannot be changed. Reporting this information does not remove a student from the requirement to test on the Spring AZELLA Reassessment. **Reasons not Tested must be completed for Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment before School Year 2015-2016 AZELLA Placement testing may begin.** For more details on this process, please see; <http://www.azed.gov/english-language-learners/files/2015/05/pell-ell-data-updates-05-01-15.pdf>

AZELLA Testing for School Year 2015-2016

English language learners must be identified in a timely manner. This means that the school districts need to assess potential ELL students' English proficiency and identify non-proficient students as English Language Learners as soon as practicable and well before the parent notification deadline. The earliest a district may begin administering the AZELLA Placement test is no more than two weeks prior to the first day of school. If a district receives Title III funds, then mandated testing must be completed and parents notified of the students' results within 30 calendar days from the start of the school year or within two weeks of a student enrolling in the district. If a district does not receive Title III funds, then mandated testing must be completed and parents notified of the students' results within 60 calendar days from the start of the school year or within 30 calendar days of a student enrolling in the district. It is important for AZELLA District Test Coordinators to be prepared for AZELLA Placement Testing at or before the start of the school year. The document, [AZELLA District Test Coordinator Placement Test Preparation To-Do List](#), has a complete list of tasks AZELLA District Test Coordinators must complete prior to starting AZELLA Placement Testing for School Year 2015-2016.

AZELLA Placement Testing for School Year 2015-2016 will be available on July 6, 2015. **The AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test Administration Qualification and AZELLA Writing Scoring Qualification** will open in *PearsonPerspective* on July 7, 2015. AZELLA Placement Test Training for 2015-2016 will open on June 22, 2015. Information about this training will be emailed to AZELLA District Test Coordinators prior to June 22.

To prepare for the new school year, *PearsonAccess* will be unavailable June 19 through July 6, 2015.

2015 – 2016 AZELLA Placement Test Scoring Cycles

Cycle	Last Key Entry Date	Electronic Results Posted	Paper Reports Due
1	8/7/2015	8/27/2015	9/3/2015
2	8/21/2015	9/10/2015	9/17/2015
3	9/4/2015	9/24/2015	10/1/2015
4	9/18/2015	10/8/2015	10/15/2015
5	10/16/2015	11/5/2015	11/12/2015
6	11/20/2015	12/10/2015	12/17/2015
7	12/18/2015	1/7/2016	1/14/2016
8	1/29/2016	2/19/2016	2/25/2016
9	2/26/2016	3/10/2016	3/17/2016
10	3/25/2016	4/14/2016	4/21/2016
11	4/22/2016	5/12/2016	5/19/2016
12	5/20/2016	6/9/2016	6/16/2016

Spring 2016 AZELLA Reassessment Test window will be February 8 through March 25, 2016.

If you have any questions regarding AZELLA, please email AZELLA@azed.gov

NAEP and International Assessments

NAEP/TIMSS/PISA 2015 and NAEP/PIRLS 2016 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS ONLY

NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) 2015 School Coordinators!

I know we all had frustrations with the new online MyNAEP site; however, we can't thank you enough for marshalling through and assisting with the successful 2015 administration. Sixteen-hour professional growth certificates were sent out to all our NAEP school coordinators at the end of March. We also thank those that were able to provide valuable feedback on the MyNAEP implementation year through emails and surveys! The rebuild is currently underway. Please email me at Shelly.Pollnow@azed.gov if you are interested in joining a stakeholder group that will be trying out some of the new features.

NAEP 2016

We are currently emailing letters out to a small number of districts, charters, and schools selected for NAEP 2016.

TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) School Coordinators

Thank you all so much as we are in our final few weeks of the assessment window. Please know that the Arizona NAEP and International Assessment office is here to support you to ensure a successful administration of TIMSS at your site. We are emailing our thank yous and an 8-hour professional growth certificate to our TIMSS School Coordinators by the end of May. If you need any assistance, please contact the NAEP Inbox, NAEP@azed.gov or call 602-542-5031.

PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) Principals and School Coordinators

You should have made your travel arrangements to the June 2015 D.C. meeting for your principal or other representative through the PISA Field Manger, Jody Wiggins: JodyWiggins@fieldstaff.westat.com or 563-583-4825 home/office and 563-599-0770 cell. Thank you so much for representing Arizona and PISA. Please contact Shelly.pollnow@azed.gov or Judy if you need to reschedule your assessment date or have any other questions.

PIRLS 2016 District Test Coordinators and School Coordinators

We are currently emailing letters out to sampled districts, charters, and schools. The PIRLS assessment is only conducted every 5 years.

The PIRLS 2016 assessment will involve:

- 1-2 intact fourth grade classrooms per school.
- 2 hours each day for two consecutive days - 2-hour paper and pencil on the first day, and then on the second day, the same students take a 2-hour computer-based assessment.
- PIRLS brings in laptops as needed – It is the school's choice if the school wants to use its own equipment.
- Stipends - \$200 per school, \$150 per school coordinator, \$20 per Grade 4 reading teacher who completes a questionnaire. A small token of appreciation (maybe a sports watch) will be given to each student who completes the test.
- **If you participate in PIRLS you will not be selected to participate in NAEP 2016.**

Follow NAEP on social media:



NAEP - continued

May 2015

NAEP and International Assessments

NAEP and International Assessment Windows to Calendar

TIMSS 2015 Assessment Window (every 4 years)

March 30-May 29, 2015

Math and Science at Grades 4 and 8

Advanced Math and Advanced Physics at Grade 12

PISA 2015 Assessment Window (every 3 years)

October 5 - November 13, 2015

Math, Reading, Science, Financial Literacy, Collaborative Problem Solving

15-year-olds

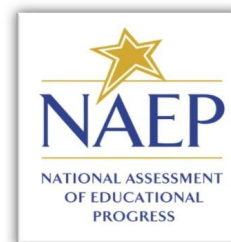
NAEP 2016 Assessment Window

January 25 - March 4, 2016

National Arts at Grade 8

Digital Based (Tablet) Pilot Writing Grades 8 and 12

Digital Based (Tablet) Pilot Math and Reading Grades 4 and 8



PIRLS 2016 Assessment Window (every 5 years)

March 1 - May 27, 2016

NAEP 2014 Release of Civics, US History, and Geography Results

On April 29, 2015, the 2014 NAEP Grade 8 Civics, U.S. History, and Geography results were released. Several Arizona schools and students participated in this assessment representing Arizona as part of the national sample.

Please note - there are **only national level** results. NAEP has also released some of the 2014 Grade 8 items to add to the item banks for all three of the assessments. Access the U.S. History, Geography, and Civics questions item bank at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt>

- The overall academic performance of eighth-graders in U.S. history, geography, and civics has remained unchanged since 2010, according to *The Nation's Report Card: 2014 U.S. History, Geography, and Civics*, though Hispanic students have made gains in U.S. history and geography.
- Compared with the first U.S. history assessment in 1994 and first civics assessment in 1998, overall average scores are higher - but in 2014, 3 percent or less scored at the *Advanced* level in any of the three subjects.
- Geography is the only subject of the three in which there has not been a change in overall scores since its first assessment in 1994.

For more information, remarks from Michelle Herczog, President, National Council for the Social Studies, and to access **the full interactive online report**, please visit www.nagb.org/2014-history-geo-civics. Note the recording from the webinar is posted on this site.

Thank you again to students, teachers, and administrators for representing Arizona in these important national assessments.

If you have any questions regarding NAEP, please email NAEP@azed.gov

NAEP - continued

May 2015

NAEP and International Assessments

WHAT IS NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States. First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The schools and students participating in NAEP represent other schools and students across the country. NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From developing frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation. NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement at the national and state level only.

For more information about NAEP, visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

What is TIMSS?

The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) is an international assessment and research project designed to measure trends in mathematics and science achievement at the fourth and eighth grade levels as well as collect information about school and teacher practices related to instruction. Since 1995, TIMSS has been administered every 4 years. TIMSS 2015, the sixth study in the series, will involve students from more than 50 countries, including the United States. TIMSS provides valuable benchmark information on how U.S. students compare to students around the world, allows educators and policymakers to examine other educational systems for practices that could have application to the United States, and contributes to ongoing discussions of ways to improve the quality of education of all students.

For more information on TIMSS visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/timss/index.asp>

What is PISA?

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international assessment of 15-year-old students, conducted every 3 years, that measures how well students apply their knowledge and skills in science, reading, and mathematics to problems in real-life contexts. In 2015, students from more than 70 countries and education systems, including the United States will participate. PISA is coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and managed in the United States by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education. Visit the PISA website at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa>

What is PIRLS?

The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), conducted every 5 years, is an international comparative study of the reading literacy of young students. PIRLS studies the reading achievement and reading behaviors and attitudes of 4th-grade students in the United States and students in the equivalent of 4th grade in other participating countries. In 2016, PIRLS will involve students from more than 40 countries, including the United States. For the first time, PIRLS will also include an innovative assessment of online reading called ePIRLS.

Visit the PIRLS website at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pirls/index.asp>

New Guidance from USDOE

Students who have been withdrawn from ELL services using the Parent Request for Student Withdrawal form must be tested annually with the AZELLA until they test proficient. Once students test proficient, the district must monitor their progress for at least two years.

Starting in the 2015-2016 school year, LEAs must complete the two-year monitoring form for all students who have been “withdrawn by parent request” and have a proficient AZELLA score.

2015 Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year

Nominations are open on the OELAS website for the 2015 Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year. Nominations are due to OELAS by August 2015.

SAVE THE DATES

July 15 – OELAS Boot Camp

September 9 – Fall PELL Meeting

September 10 – OELAS Boot Camp (repeat from July meeting)

Don’t forget to check the OELAS website for upcoming summer trainings.

Assessment 2015 - 2016 Critical Dates Calendar

Coming soon!

To help District Test Coordinators track upcoming dates for each of the different Assessment programs, an Assessment Calendar is posted on every Assessment page on the ADE website. This calendar includes critical dates for Achievement Assessments, Alternate Assessments, AZELLA, and NAEP and International Assessments. It will be updated monthly throughout the year. The calendar can be viewed by month with all Assessment programs or by the specific Assessment program at www.azed.gov/assessment/. The individual Assessment program calendars will have more detailed information.

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NOTE: *The Examiner* is published electronically every August, November, February, and May for distribution to test coordinators in Arizona schools. Test coordinators are responsible for disseminating information in *The Examiner*, as appropriate. *The Examiner* is located electronically at www.azed.gov/assessment/examiner/.